REMARKS

This amendment is being made to bring the subject application into better conformance with U.S. practice, to claim the benefit of previously filed international applications, and to more distinctly claim what the Applicant regards as the invention. No new matter is being introduced. Entrance of this amendment is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

[(57) Abstract:

A rail car (17) having a chassis (12) adapted to travel on a track (13); A longitudinal extending container (6) for compacted material, the container (6) having a closeable opening (11) for loading or unloading material through at least one longitudinal end thereof, and means to enable interconnected displacement of the container (6) relative to the chassis (12) to permit in situ loading via the closeable opening (11); a loading means (4) at a material collection point for loading material into the container (6) through the opening (11); a track (13) for the rail car (7) extending from the collection point to a remote distribution point; and an unloading means (15) at the distribution point for unloading material from the container (6) through the opening (11); wherein, The container (6) is displaced relative to the chassis (12) to operatively engage the loading means (4) and again when unloading the material.]

--**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A rail car having a chassis adapted to travel on a track extending from a collection point to a remote distribution point, a longitudinally extending container for compacted material, the container having a closable opening for loading and/or unloading of the material through at least one end of the container, an interconnector joining the container and the chassis so as to allow displacement therebetween to facilitate in situ loading of the container via the closable opening, a loader located at the collection point adapted to load the material into the container, and an unloader at the remote distribution point for unloading the material. The container is displaced relative the chassis to operatively engage the loader and the unloader.--

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, immediately after the title "MATERIALS HANDLING SYSTEM", please insert – **Related Applications This application claims the benefit of the Australian application PQ 1810 filed June 9, 1999 and the international application PCT/AU00/00646 filed June 8, 2000.—**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A rail car **comprising** [including]:

a chassis adapted to travel on a track;

a longitudinally extending container having a closeable opening for loading or unloading [metropolitan waste] material through at least one longitudinal end thereof; **and**

[means] **an interconnector adapted** to enable interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis to permit loading via the closeable opening [; and] **wherein** the container [being] **is** adapted to stably withstand the compression of the waste material within the container.

2. (Amended) [A] **The** rail car [according to] **of** claim 1 wherein the [means to enable interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis is] **interconnector comprises** a bearing between the container and chassis such that the container is selectively rotatable relative to the chassis.

3. (Amended) [A] **The** rail car [according to claim 1 or claim 2] **of Claim 1,** wherein both of the longitudinal ends have a closeable opening for loading or unloading [waste] material.

4. (Amended) A materials handling system including:

a rail car having a chassis adapted to travel on a track;

a longitudinally extending container for compacted material, the container having a closeable opening for loading or unloading material through at least one longitudinal end thereof, and [means] **an interconnector adapted** to enable interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis to permit in situ loading via the closeable opening;

a [loading means] **loader** at a materials collection point for loading material into the container through the opening;

a track for the rail car extending from the collection point to a remote distribution point; and

an [unloading means] **unloader** at the distribution point for unloading material from the container through the opening[;] wherein[,] the container is displaced relative to the chassis to operatively engage the [loading means] **loader** and again displaced when unloading the material.

5. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 4, wherein the [means to enable interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis is] **interconnector comprises** a bearing between the container and the chassis such that the container is selectively rotatable relative to the chassis.

6. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 4 wherein the material is loaded and unloaded through the closable opening.

7. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 4, wherein the material is metropolitan waste and the collection point is a regional transfer station wherein the [loading means] **loader** includes a compactor for compressing the waste.

8. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 7, wherein [stabilizing means are] **at least one stabilizer is** provided to support and stabilize the rail car against force[d]s generated by the compactor.

9. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 4, wherein the distribution point is adjacent a land fill site and the [unloading means is] **unloader comprises** a hydraulically actuated telescopic ram capable of engaging the compressed waste through one opening in the container and pushing [it] **the waste** out [the] **an** the opening in the other end of the container.

10. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 9, wherein the telescopic ram pushes the compressed waste out of the other end of the container into the trailer of a heavy haulage truck.

11. (Amended) [A] **The** materials handling system [according to] **of** Claim 10, wherein the trailer of the heavy haulage truck is provided with a conveyor [means] along [its] **a** floor **of the trailer** for unloading the waste into the land fill [area] **site**.

12. (Amended) A method of transporting material between a collection point and a distribution point by rail using a rail car having[:] a chassis adapted to travel on a track[;]**,** a longitudinally extending container having a closeable opening for loading or unloading material through at least one longitudinal end thereof, and [means] **an interconnector adapted** to permit

interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis to permit in situ loading via the closeable opening, [said method including] **the method comprising:**

providing [loading means] **a loader** at the collection point;

displacing the container relative to the chassis to operatively engage the [loading means] **loader** and loading material through the opening;

returning the container to its original position relative to the chassis and transporting the rail car along the track to the distribution point;

providing an [unloading means] **unloader** at the distribution point; and

displacing the container relative to the chassis to operatively engage the [unloading means] **unloader** and unloading the material.

13. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 12 wherein the [means to enable interconnected displacement of the container relative to the chassis is] **interconnector comprises** a bearing between the container and the chassis such that the container is selectively rotatable relative to the chassis.

14. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 12 wherein the material is loaded and unloaded through the closable opening.

15. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 12 wherein the material is metropolitan waste and the collection point is a regional transfer station [wherein the loading means includes a compactor for] **the method further comprising** compressing the waste **with a compactor**.

16. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 15 [wherein] **further comprising** stabilizing [means are provided to support and stabilize] the rail car against force[d]**s** generated by the compactor.

17. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 12 wherein the distribution point is adjacent a land fill site and the [unloading means] unloader is a hydraulically actuated telescopic ram [capable of] **the method further comprising** engaging the compressed waste through one opening in the container and pushing it out [the] **an** the opening in the other end of the container.

18. (Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim 17 [wherein the telescopic ram pushes] **further comprising pushing** the compressed waste out of the other end of the container into the trailer of a heavy haulage truck.

19.(Amended) [A] **The** method [according to] **of** Claim [17 wherein the trailer of the heavy haulage truck is provided with a conveyor means along its] **18 further comprising conveying the waste along the** floor **of the trailer so as to** [for unloading the] **unload** the waste into the land fill [area] **site.**